

# MINNESOTA WING, CIVIL AIR PATROL UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY

May 2000



## 2000 Wing Conference Review

### Wing Conference - A Minnesota Showcase and a New Beginning for the Minnesota Wing

Minnesota Wing held its 53<sup>rd</sup> annual conference the weekend of April 28th through the 30th at the Four Points Hotel In Minneapolis. Over 300 cadets and senior members were in attendance and came away with new experiences and contacts.

The annual conference brings together members from all of the Sqdns in the Wing in a business and social setting.

Members started coming together Friday night and were met by Major Victoria Rock and her Registration Team. They started in the late afternoon and through 9:00 PM ably made sure that each member who registered had everything they needed for a great experience.

As registration was going on, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt David Ringsmuth and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Carol Sand set up the command post and with many volunteers dealt with any situation as it arose. They worked closely with Lt Col Anna Marie Bistodeau, the Sergeant of Arms, in providing a smooth and worry-free conference.

The Civil Air Patrol Bookstore once again made a stop at the conference. They set up in the Memphis room with their broad selection of merchandise. Uniforms, insignia, books, memorabilia, you name it they had it. Rita and Barry Labarre did a great job of answering any questions that members had about the merchandise.

Friday night the cadets and senior members had the chance to renew old acquaintances and make new friends during the respective hospitality times. Saturday started with a continental breakfast followed by the General Assembly. The Owatonna Composite



Lt Col Dale Hoium taking command of Minnesota Wing from Col Joe McMillan, National Chief of Staff. Photo by Major Bill Rutten

Sqdn's Color Guard presented the colors to the assembled members and the morning's program began with Master of Ceremonies, Major Tom Kettell, Group 3 Commander, introduced Wing Vice-Commander, Lt Col Dale Hoium.

Col Hoium then conducted the Unit Commander Roll Call. Col Hoium called on each group commander to introduce his Sqdn commanders to the assembled members. After the roll call the unit commanders were recognized with a round of applause for their hard work and dedication to their Sqdns.

Wing Commander, Col Kevin Sliwinski welcomed everyone to the conference and spoke of the achievements of the past year and of his tenure as Wing Commander.

After Col Sliwinski, Mr. Ray Rought of the Minnesota Department of Transportation, Office of Aeronautics. As the Director of Aeronautics spoke. Mr. Rought is a big supporter of Civil Air Patrol.

Col John Lehr the North Central Region's Vice Commander spoke to the assembly about some of the changes coming to Civil Air Patrol's upper level leadership structure and about the use of resources. Col Lehr stressed that we need to be accountable and need to justify why we need the resources we have or would like to have.

He introduced Col Joseph McMillan, National Chief of Staff. Col McMillan also spoke about the changes in the national leadership structure, he stressed that the changes would have no impact on the Sqdn and stressed the squadrons were and will continue to be the level where the business of Civil Air Patrol is done.

Col Joe Caster, USAFR, the North Central Liaison Region, Act-

ing Commander was introduced. Col Caster is responsible for the Air Force oversight of all CAP units in the North Central Region. He spoke about his experiences with Civil Air Patrol and told us about his background and connections to Minnesota. He introduced some of the Liaison Region staff and Air Force Reserve Assistance Personnel present including the new Director of Training, Lt Col Ken Kassen, USAF.

A familiar face to many members of the Wing, Mr. Dennis Yeager talked about various changes coming to the national Aerospace Ed program including a new AE text being released this year for cadets. He did a demonstration and had Col McMillan help out. It was pretty funny. You had to be there. Let's just say it involves an electric fan.

Distinguished guests were introduced to the attendees. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Robert Freeman of the Cass County was presented with a Certificate of Recognition for Lifesaving.

Lt Freeman, while working on a water well system, saved a 20-year-old well drilling worker in an eight foot deep trench. This worker had sustained some very serious injuries and at risk of his own life Lt Freeman saved his life.

The members split into Senior Member and Cadet Educational meetings after a brief break.

During the Cadet Meeting led by Cadet Programs Director Chaplain (Lt Col) Don Mikitta, cadets were told about the special activities available to them this summer. These included Encampment, Minnesota Leadership Academy and National Special Activities.

2nd Lt Josephine Morrow, USAF told the assembled cadets about opportunities in the Air Force ROTC program.

Senior Members were briefed by Lt Col Barney Uhlig about the new Memorandum of Understanding between the State and Minnesota Wing. Lt Col Bruce Sexton, Wing Chief of Staff, gave a staff report. LT Morrow briefed on AFROTC and how CAP can help recruit students for the program and encourage eligible CAP cadets to take advantage of the scholarships available.

The highlight of the morning for the seniors was a presen-

tation by Mr. Ron Wachs of Applied Integrity. Mr. Wachs is a professional developer for volunteer organizations. He spoke about bringing volunteer organizations like CAP into the 21<sup>st</sup> century in areas like membership development (recruiting, retention and training) and the managing of volunteers.

For the Cadets a highlight was the presentation of the Wing Honor Guard led by C/2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Jack Houck. The cadets were presented with their distinctive silver Honor Guard cord by their advisor 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Marcel Derosier and Chaplain Mikitta.

After Cadet and Senior sessions lunch was served.

Right after lunch Col Chris Donaldson emceed the afternoon recognition program. During this program Specialty Awards were presented to members for outstanding achievement in various CAP specialties.

#### Speciality Awards

Chaplain	Ch, (Lt Col) Harold Kost
Communications (Senior)	Capt David Kenan
Communications (Cadet)	C/Col Chet Wilberg
Counterdrug	Capt Rolf Carlson
Finance	Maj Jess Riehle
Logistics	Maj Odilo Goebel
Operations	Capt John Vihlen
Safety	Capt Donald Hansen

#### Unit Speciality Awards

Counterdrug	Worthington Composite Sqdn
Operations	Worthington Composite Sqdn

During the course of the afternoon members participated in the Specialty Fair and Cadet Training.

The Specialty Fair is a gathering of the Wing Staff and members to find out what is new in each of the specialty areas. Serious business was conducted such as reviews of Logistics files, issuing Communications directories and picking up checks from the Finance Officer.

Cadets were in training that was specific to their cadet grades that was organized by Major Vickie Eckhoff. Cadet Airmen learned how to prepare for encampment and about physical



fitness.

Cadet NCO's learned how to lead and become an ES Team member and about physical fitness. Cadet Officers learned about leading an ES Team, Planning an Activity and Resolving Conflicts. Each session concluded with a forum.

Senior Cadet Officers (C/Capt and above) were in a seminar led by Capt Doug Kilian and Senior Member Robert Billings about issues of concern to senior cadet leaders. All cadets were invited to attend the Specialty Fair after their training.

A few hours later after the Banquet Social and Banquet, more recognition was made of our outstanding members.

First, Cadet Col Chet Wilberg was presented his Spaatz Award by USAFR (ret) Brigadier General Dennis Schustad.

Next came the Coffin Memorial Award. This was presented to Major John Mowat, USAFR for his contributions to Civil Air Patrol and especially for his assistance with the last 10 Wing Encampments.

The Sindlear Award was presented to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Noel Westlind of St. Croix Sqdn for his all around support of his Sqdn.

Major Stan Kegel was recognized as Wing Staff Member of the Year for his outstanding contribution as Wing Emergency Services Training Officer.

Major Wayne Sherman of Red Wing Sqdn was presented with the Dunbar Memorial Award for his development of individual enthusiasm and participation in the Wing's Communications Program.

The Billings Family (Robert, Brenda and Patrick) were recognized as the Family of the Year.

Capt Steve Miller was recognized as Unit Commander of the year and presented with a Commander's Commendation Award.

Cadet Isaiah Sieg was presented with a plaque as the Cadet NCO of the Year.

Cadet Lt Col Peggy Schnack was announced as the Cadet of the Year and was presented with the Commander's Commendation Award.

Senior Member of the Year honors and a Commander's Commendation Award were presented to Lt Col Tom Woods.

The Unit of the Year Award went to Valley Cadet Sqdn. They received the Unit Citation Award from National Headquarters.

Col Gerald Quilling was decorated with the Exceptional Service Award in recognition of his efforts with the Minnesota Wing Flight Clinic Program for the past 10 years.

Several Cadet Program Milestone Awards were presented.

Cadet Robert Billings	Eaker Award
Cadet Peggy Schnack	Eaker Award
Cadet Brian Freseman	Earhart Award

Col Kevin Sliwinski was presented the Distinguished Service Medal, by Col Joe McMillan,.

Col McMillan and Col Lehr presided over the Change of Command ceremony where command passed from Col Sliwinski to Col Hoium. Lt Col Hoium was promoted to Col by National Headquarters and had his new insignia of grade put on his shoulders by Col McMillan and his daughter Major Nancy Hoium-Schultz.

Col Houim introduced his leadership team to the Wing: Lt Col David Skarr was appointed Vice Commander; Lt Col John Quilling, Deputy Chief of Staff (DCS) for Operations; Col Kevin Sliwinski, DCS for Training and Capt Steve Miller DCS for Mission Support. After Col Hoium's remarks the members all stood and applauded the new commander.

After the Banquet was the Military Ball. The Wing Honor Guard after performing in the afternoon provided the Saber Arch that everyone passed through to enter. Then the cadets and seniors danced the night away to popular music.

Sunday Morning as most members were going home Sqdn Commanders or their deputies attended Commander's Call and cadet representatives attended the Cadet Advisory Council Meeting. Major Bob Johnson conducted a Public Affairs Seminar.



Members left the conference with a new look at issues, informed and hopefully made a few new friends and renewed old friendships.

More pictures from the conference (over 100 of them) are on the Minnesota Wing Website [www.mnwg.cap.gov/pictures](http://www.mnwg.cap.gov/pictures).



#### **Wing Conference Team**

Col Dennis Rock

1st Lt David Ringsmuth

Col Lorraine Timmerman

Lt Col Diane Oliver

Maj Victoria Eckhoff

2nd Lt Carol Sand

1st Lt Barbara Kasper

2nd Lt Al Pabon



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See you next  
year at  
Breezy Point!

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